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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2003

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**METHAMPHETAMINE LAB SEIZED
ON TYBEE ISLAND**

Rick Thompson, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that on January 23, 2003, in a joint operation conducted by agents of the newly formed "Methamphetamine Strike Force," which consists of the Chatham County Counter-Narcotics Team and the Sheriff's Offices of Effingham, Bryan, and Bulloch Counties, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, Michael Trotter and Ann Trotter, of Tybee Island, Georgia, were arrested without incident at their home on Jones Avenue following execution of a search warrant. The defendants have been charged by criminal complaint with various federal offenses relating to the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine, possession of precursor chemicals needed to manufacture methamphetamine, and firearms charges.

An operational methamphetamine laboratory was found on the premises. Evidence seized includes over 5,000 pseudoephedrine tablets (the primary component of methamphetamine), various chemicals and lab equipment, suspected methamphetamine, ledgers, scales and plastic bags, and 8 weapons, including a sawed-off shotgun. The house was also equipped with a video surveillance system. The defendants are being held pending a bond hearing next week. Mr. Thompson stressed that a criminal warrant is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The case must be presented to a federal grand jury for consideration within 30 days.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Darrin L. McCullough.

04-03